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Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DECAL reminds you to Play it “SAFE” this summer**

*Child Care Providers encouraged to pay close attention to weather conditions and air quality in planning outside play and field trips*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (May 16, 2012)** – With the summer months quickly approaching, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is reminding child care providers to pay close attention to weather conditions and air quality in planning outside playtime and field trips this year.

“We are committed to nurturing Georgia’s youngest children, keeping them safe and healthy, and to enriching their lives,” said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. “Along those lines, our child care services consultants are working with over 6300 child care centers, group day care and family day care homes to ensure that children have a safe and educational summer this year.”

Commissioner Cagle encourages providers, teachers and parents to remember the phrase “Summer SAFE” this year:

**S**un screen (Along with light clothing are important safety factors)  
**A**ttention to conditions (Heat, humidity, air quality)  
**F**luids (Before, during and after each activity)  
**E**arly is better (Not as hot, less chance of heat exposure)

## **DECAL reminds you to Play it “SAFE” this summer – Page 2**

Go to Safe Kids for more information on signs of heat exposure [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org). The following link provides information to help you decide when it is safe to take children outside.

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/weatherwatch.pdf>

### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).

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